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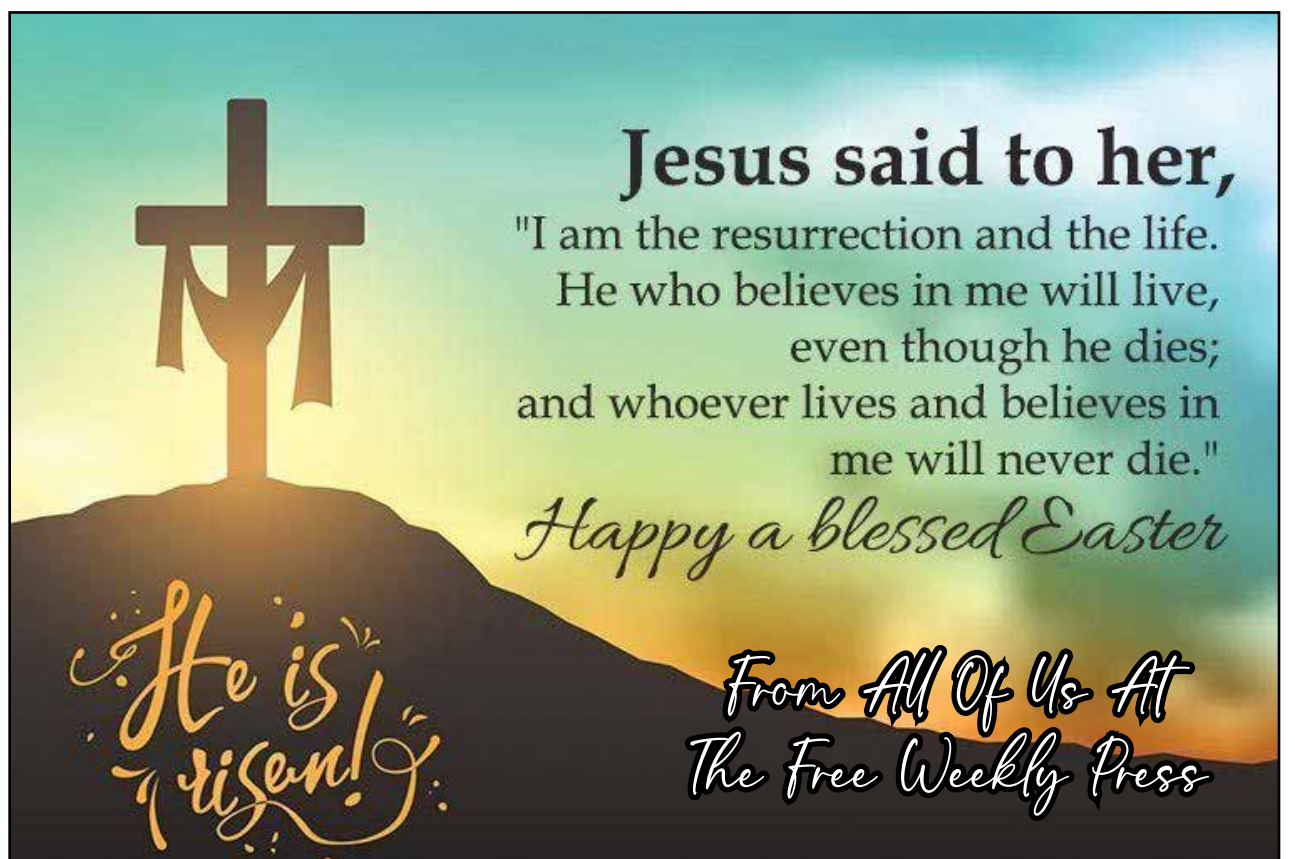
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This Years Spring Musical is **MEAN GIRLS**. Photos by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press



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# PA House Republicans to Use Discharge Resolution Process to Advance Voter ID Constitutional Amendment



With a voter identification constitutional amendment having languished in committee for nearly a year, despite bipartisan support for the concept among both the public and House members, House Republicans held a press conference Monday announcing they will be utilizing the discharge resolution process to advance the measure.

House Republican Leader Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster) noted 22

House Democrats voted to support enhanced voter identification requirements in a prior House vote, meaning only three more Democrats need to sign on to the discharge petition to get the constitutional amendment out of committee.

“For nearly a year, this legislation has sat in committee. And that is despite poll after poll telling us that requiring identification to vote at each and every election is supported on

a broad, bipartisan basis,” Cutler said.

“Commonsense tells us that as more and more proposals are introduced to make our elections harder to administer and less secure, that simply requiring a state-provided identification at each election is the best way to enhance election integrity. Time is of the essence.”

House Republican State Government Committee Chairman Brad Roae (R-Crawford/Erie)

discussed how requiring Pennsylvanians to provide identification each time they vote makes sense.

“You need photo identification to sign up for a library card or apply for a marriage license, but not to vote in Pennsylvania,” Roae said. “So, if your polling location is in a library, make sure you bring identification in order to be able to check out books, but don’t worry about needing it to vote. The vast majority of people agree about the need to show identification to vote. It’s time to put it in law.”

The co-prime sponsors of House Bill 891, the voter identification constitutional amendment, are Rep. Torren Ecker (R-Adams/Cumberland) and Rep. Thomas Kutz (R-Cumberland).

Ecker noted the significant bipartisan support the concept of enhanced voter identification has.

“Pennsylvanians overwhelming support enhanced voter identification. As a result, this legislation deserves a vote by the House,” he said. “That is why I support expediting a voter identification bill so that we can have a conversa-

tion in the House about securing our elections in a bipartisan manner.”

Similarly, Kutz spoke on the need to work on simple election integrity measures, like Voter ID that will protect the security of our elections for the future.

“Voter ID is an easy way to encourage participation in elections while ensuring they are free, fair, safe and secure,” Kutz said. “It is

important we institute initiatives that safeguard this system for current and future generations of Pennsylvania residents.”

The discharge petition resolution will be officially offered later Monday in the House chamber.

You can watch the entire press conference here: <https://pagopvideo.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/484400470.mp4>

## Poll Workers Needed for Upcoming Election in Northampton County

Northampton County Elections Office reminds registered voters who live in Northampton County that they are seeking workers for poll worker positions for the upcoming Primary Election on Tuesday, April 23rd, and General Election on Tuesday, November 5th.

Every year, elections in Northampton County are made possible by citizens who serve as poll workers. These people do the important work of checking in voters at polling places and setting them up with a ballot. At the end of the night, poll workers deliver the returns to county election officials. The County depends on these workers to ensure fair, accurate, and legal elections.

Poll workers must attend mandatory training

prior to the Primary Election and are also paid for their training time and work on Election Day. Northampton County poll workers may earn between \$175 and \$200 for serving all of Election Day, depending on the poll worker’s assignments and training. Typical Election Day hours are from 6:30 a.m. until after the polls close at 8 p.m. Individuals who bring supplies back to the Government Center receive additional compensation and mileage.

Registered voters interested in becoming poll workers in your community, email the Northampton County Elections Office at [election@norcopa.gov](mailto:election@norcopa.gov) or call 610-829-6260.

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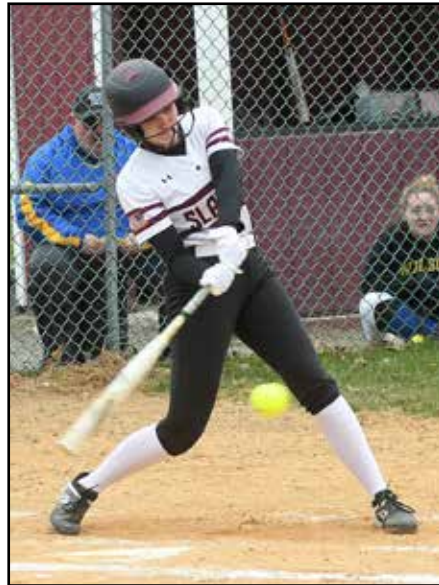
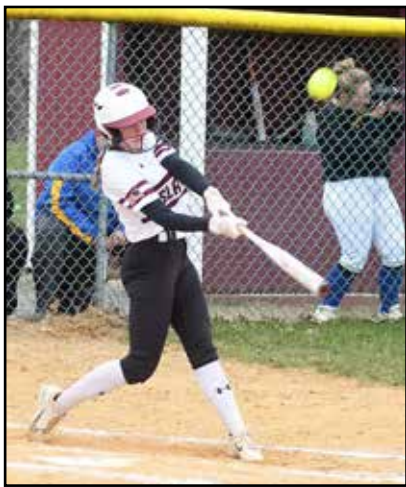
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# Murphy Administration Announces \$3.7 Million In Funding For Offshore Wind Research And Monitoring Initiative in New Jersey



New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette and New Jersey Board of Public Utilities President Christine Guhl-Sadovy today announced the award of nearly \$3.7 million in funding for scientific research projects being undertaken to ensure ecologically responsible development of offshore wind energy, an integral part of the Murphy Administration's climate change response and resilience strategy.

Projects newly funded through the state's ongoing Research and Monitoring Initiative (RMI) include an aerial survey of whales, a whale satellite-tagging study, a study of seasonal water-mixing dynamics, the expansion of an existing tracking system for birds and bats, and a study focused on sea turtle behavior and health.

A woman wearing an orange flight suit holds a camera up to a plane's window to take a photo.

"Development of offshore wind energy is critical to mitigating and responding to the worsening impacts of climate change," said Commissioner LaTourette. "These projects continue to advance our collection of important baseline scientific information that is necessary to ensure the responsible development and operation of offshore wind facilities."

"As we continue to pursue a 100% clean energy economy by 2035, it's imperative that we not only protect the interests of our ratepayers but safeguard the vitality of our marine ecosystems as well," said NJBPU President Guhl-Sadovy. "The Research Monitoring Initiative is a crucial piece of our comprehensive efforts to responsibly develop New Jersey's nation-leading offshore wind industry."

The RMI, jointly administered by the DEP and BPU, employs a rigorous scientific approach to

coordinate research on potential impacts of the development, operation, and eventual decommissioning of offshore wind energy to ensure the state's offshore wind energy goals are achieved responsibly and with as little impact on natural resources as possible.

Project details: Rutgers University has been awarded \$97,462 to study the effects of offshore wind turbines and foundations on the Mid-Atlantic cold pool, a unique oceanographic feature important to marine ecosystems. The cold pool is characterized by a cold bottom layer of water that develops in the spring and breaks down in the fall as seasonal storms and high winds mix the thermal layers of the water column. Researchers will be using various analytical models and environmental data collected by RMI-funded Slocum undersea gliders in their evaluations.

Whale aerial surveys: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries has been awarded \$47,383 to extend seasonal aerial whale surveys by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center into the coastal region off northern New Jersey. These surveys will contribute to regional efforts being conducted for endangered North Atlantic right whales, and other whales, from New York to North Carolina. Trained protected species observers will utilize small aircraft to visually identify and record data about whale species. Data will be shared with other researchers conducting assessments of seasonal habitat use, distribution

and abundance. Photographs of North Atlantic right whales will be used for individual identification and tracking.

Whale satellite tagging study: Rutgers University has been awarded \$929,593 to evaluate the movements and habitat use of humpback whales and fin whales in and around the New Jersey offshore wind lease areas. Both fin and humpback whales are commonly found year-round in waters off New Jersey. Whales will be affixed with satellite transmitters that will allow researchers to better understand their ecology and behavior, such as feeding patterns and movements. Researchers will also assess where there are potential risks associated with time spent by whales in wind lease areas or major shipping lanes to inform any potential mitigation efforts if necessary.

Bat and bird tracking system expansion: A collaboration of research entities led by the American Bird Conservancy has been awarded \$1.3 million to expand an existing regional network that tracks the movements of radio-tagged birds and bats. This funding will result in the deployment and maintenance of 10 new land based Motus receiver stations and 10 ocean buoy stations as part of the Motus Wildlife Tracking System in strategic locations throughout New Jersey and offshore. The expansion will improve regional network coverage and provide baseline data to aid researchers in assessing species migration routes to and through New Jersey airspace and offshore wind lease areas.



sey airspace and offshore wind lease areas.

Sea turtle study: The Coonamessett Farm Foundation has been awarded \$1.03 million to evaluate baseline preconstruction migration routes of sea turtles, including loggerheads, greens, kemps ridleys, and leatherbacks. The Coonamessett Farm Foundation will tag turtles off North Carolina and Virginia before they migrate through New Jersey. The researchers will also monitor foraging and dive behavior of turtles within New Jersey offshore wind lease areas using video tags and remotely operated vehicles, known as ROVs. Biological samples will be collected to evaluate variability in baseline preconstruction blood chemistry (such as stress hormones), diet, and parasites.

RMI projects are selected to address the short-term highest priority research needs identified with input from subject matter experts; stakeholders, including a variety of state, federal, fishing industry, and environmental organizations; and the New Jersey Environmental Resources Offshore Wind Working Group.

Launched in 2021,

RMI's ongoing research is contributing to a regional body of work being developed by federal partners such as the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); regional entities such as the Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative for Offshore Wind and the Responsible Offshore Science Alliance; and state partners with shared ocean interests from Maine to North Carolina.

To date, RMI projects have received \$13 million in funding through the BPU's second offshore wind energy solicitation. On Jan. 24, the BPU awarded a combined 3,742 MW of offshore wind capacity through its Third Offshore Wind Energy Solicitation, making an additional \$39 million available to support RMI projects.

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# Bobwhite Quail Back In Pennsylvania

A wildlife species native to Pennsylvania but long missing is back home again.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission today released 50 bobwhite quail on the grounds of Letterkenny Army Depot in Franklin County. That brings to 76 the number of bobwhites planted on site in recent weeks, with one more release to go.

The birds – which should increase their numbers exponentially over the course of the spring breeding season – are the final brick in a foundation the Game Commission began laying more than a decade ago.

“This is an exciting time, the next chapter in a story of wildlife restoration,” said Game Commission Executive Director Bryan Burhans. “It’s difficult – not impossible, but difficult – to take any species that’s disappeared and bring it back again.

“But Pennsylvania has a proud history of doing just that. White-tailed deer, elk, bald eagles, peregrine falcons, all were gone of nearly so from our borders and now are thriving across Pennsylvania. With today’s release, maybe, just maybe, bobwhites are on the same path.”

Bobwhites are by nature a boom-and-bust-type of species, incredibly productive breeders, but with short lifespans and prone to dramatic population swings. In good

habitat, though, they can survive all that long-term.

They certainly did in Pennsylvania, for a long time. The Keystone State had quail in all 67 counties in the mid-1800s, and they remained abundant in many of those places into the mid-20th century.

But land use changes not necessarily friendly to quail changed everything.

Bobwhites, as well as other grassland birds, require what’s known as “old field” habitat that provides food, nesting cover and shelter. Pennsylvania once had lots of it in the form of small family farms. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the Keystone State had 202,250 farms in 1920, covering 61% of the state’s total land mass.

Many of those disappeared over the ensuing decades, though. NASS’s latest, just-released U.S. Census of Agriculture says Pennsylvania had just 49,053 farms in 2022, covering less than 25% of the state.

Not surprisingly, quail disappeared as those farms did. The Game Commission officially declared them extirpated – gone from within our state borders – after conducting extensive surveys in 2013 and 2014. But it’s likely they were lost even earlier, in the late 1990s or early 2000s, said Andrew

Ward, the Game Commission’s quail biologist.

In the years since, the Game Commission has been working to bring them back. Step one was finding a potential restoration site and creating as much bobwhite quail habitat there as possible.

Enter Letterkenny. Starting in 2017, the Game Commission and Letterkenny began mowing, seeding, disking, burning, herbiciding and otherwise managing about 2,700 acres of the U.S. Army installation focused on the repair and modernization of air and missile defense systems.

Todd Black, Deputy to the Commander at Letterkenny, said today’s quail release wouldn’t have been possible without those countless hours spent developing the Bobwhite Quail Focus Area – the only of its kind in Pennsylvania.

“The release of northern bobwhite quail into their new home highlights how Letterkenny takes proactive measures and works with our partners in the Game Commission to adapt operations and steward Army lands,” Black said. “Our investment in species habitat not only ensures mission access and flexibility of use but contributes to our overall readiness as an organization.”

Letterkenny and the Game Commission put all that work up for review, too. Bobwhite experts from around the



state and country were brought to Letterkenny at multiple times in recent years, to first assess the site’s habitat potential and then grade the work being done to improve it. In 2023, 65 such pros from the National Bobwhite and Grasslands Initiative’s technical committee declared the site ready for birds.

“We now have warm-season, bunch and clump grasses to provide nesting cover,” Ward said. “We have forbs and legumes to provide brood habitat as well as food. And we have shrubby, woody cover that offers protection from the elements as well as from predators.”

Quail were the last missing piece. The Game Commission has secured them from three sites: 11 so far from Fort Barfoot, an Army National Guard installation in Virginia; 15 from Fort Knox, another Army site in Kentucky; and 50 from Tall Timbers, a Florida-based land trust.

Another trapping effort is planned next week at Fort Barfoot, with the birds subsequently re-

leased at Letterkenny.

Combined, those quail are enough, in cases captured from source sites as close to Pennsylvania as could be arranged, to make a successful restoration possible, Ward added.

Possible, but not guaranteed. The bobwhites released this spring still need some attention and help. The plan is to provide it.

“We’re not just dropping these birds and walking away,” Ward said. “We will continue to support, monitor and study them.”

For starters, the Game Commission, Letterkenny and other conservation partners will continue to remake and sustain suitable habitat as outlined in a quail management plan that runs through 2030.

Beyond that, two graduate students from the University of Delaware will be on site this summer to see how well the quail – and other grassland species in decline over the long haul for the same reasons – are faring.

Every quail released at Letterkenny this year

are, as a whole, are the most-imperiled type – are using that same habitat. Already there are encouraging signs, though. Yellow breasted chats, bobolinks and horned larks, along with the Pennsylvania-endangered Dickcissel, have been seen for the first time or in increased numbers at Letterkenny in recent years.

In the meantime, there will be no hunting of bobwhites at Letterkenny anytime soon. Restoring populations to huntable levels is not even a goal right now, Ward said. Rather, the intent is that bobwhites and all those other species will not only thrive at Letterkenny, but expand into the surrounding countryside, as well.

Even that may take some time. Restoring eagles to their current abundance, for example, was a decades-long process. But the bobwhite’s return is at long last underway.

“This is an opportunity to help bobwhites in ways we never have before,” Burhans said. “I can’t wait to see where this project takes us.”

# The Overlook

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## Northampton County Elections Office Announces Change In Certain Polling Locations

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Allen Township South	Allen Township Fire Company 3530 Howertown Rd., Northampton, PA 18067	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 1335 Old Carriage Rd., Northampton, PA 18067
Bushkill Township – Clearfield	Bushkill Township Municipal Building 1114 Bushkill Center Rd., Nazareth, PA 18064	Bushkill United Methodist Church 1330 Church Rd., Wind Gap, PA 18091
Easton 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ward	Trinity Episcopal Church 234 Spring Garden St., Easton, PA 18042	First Presbyterian Church 333 Spring Garden St., Easton, PA 18042
Northampton Borough 1 <sup>st</sup> Ward	Assumption B.V.M. Church 2181 Washington Ave., Northampton, PA 18067	Northampton Memorial Community Center 1601 Laubach Ave., Northampton, PA 18067
Plainfield Township – Delabole	St. Joseph’s Episcopal Church 1440 Verona Dr., Pen Argyl, PA 18072	Benders Mennonite Church 975 Benders Church Rd., Pen Argyl, PA 18072

The Northampton County Elections Office announced that some polling locations have changed for the Tuesday, April 23, 2024, General Primary Election. New voter cards with updated information have been sent to residents in each precinct. Anyone with questions, or if you would like to check your polling location, call the Northampton County Elections Office at 610-829-6260 or enter your address at: [www.vote.pa.gov/pollingplace](http://www.vote.pa.gov/pollingplace).

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### The Allentown Rescue Mission's Clean Team Workforce February Employee of the Month

The Allentown Rescue Mission congratulates its Clean Team Employee of the Month for February, Angel R.

Angel became homeless after being evicted for falling behind on his rent. He drifted from one friend's house to another but confessed he spent his money on drugs rather than saving for his own home.

Angel then fell down a flight of steps and was admitted to the hospital. When he was released, the hospital referred Angel to the Allentown Rescue Mission since he had nowhere else to go. Angel entered the Allentown Rescue Mission's Emergency Shelter in October of 2023.

After learning about the Mission's eight-week Transformation Program, Angel entered the program to develop the skills he needed to become a "better and more independent" person. In the program, Angel made new friends, brought God back into his life, and learned important life skills, like budgeting which he found the most helpful for his future.

Angel graduated from the Transformation Program in December 2023 and has been working on the Clean Team Workfor-



ce since then. Angel is a versatile employee who has succeeded in many different jobs. Street cleaning, estate cleanouts, and light landscaping are just a few of the jobs he has performed. Recently, an opening became available in the Food Service Department of the Allentown Rescue Mission. Angel was offered the position and accepted.

While he continues to work for the Clean Team Workforce, Angel will be able to utilize the Mission's educational scholarship fund financed by two loyal donors to take a forklift certification course. He knows there are many warehousing oppor-

tunities currently available in the Lehigh Valley and hopes to start a new career with a forklift certification.

The Allentown Rescue Mission is proud to have Angel as its Clean Team Workforce Employee of the Month and wishes him the best in starting his forklift training in April to help propel him into a great career.

The Allentown Rescue Mission, a 501c3, 123 bed non-profit homeless shelter has been providing shelter for homeless men since 1900. In addition to emergency shelter services (365 days a year), the Allentown Rescue Mission offers a residential life

skills program, and transitional employment on the Clean Team Workforce that's available for hire to the community.

The Clean Team Workforce pays the men above PA state minimum wage—helping them save a nest egg to transition back into the community. In a typical year, the Allentown Rescue Mission provides shelter services for over 946 men per year, and serves over 42,000 meals a year to men in need.

To refer someone to the Allentown Rescue Mission for services or to learn ways you can help make a difference please visit [www.allentownrescuemission.org](http://www.allentownrescuemission.org)

### PA Senator Lisa Boscola Offers Amendment to Allow Independents to Vote in Primaries in Senate State Government Committee

Senator Lisa M. Boscola (D-Northampton) today renewed her efforts to allow Independents the right to vote in primary elections by offering an amendment to Senate Bill 250 that would provide for open primaries in the Commonwealth.

"There are more independents in Pennsylvania today because so many Pennsylvanians are tired of not having issues important to them considered here in Harrisburg," Boscola stated. "I believe there would be even more if we allowed Independents to vote in primaries. It's time we shake things up in today's political landscape and my amendment would shake up our state's status quo."

Senator Boscola is a longstanding advocate for open primaries having introduced her first bill to repeal the closed primary system in 1996 and has consistently supported efforts to allow the approximately 1.1 million unaffiliated voters in Pennsylvania the right to vote in pri-

maries since.

This session, Boscola and Senator Dan Laughlin (R-Erie) introduced a bipartisan proposal (Senate Bill 400) to repeal closed primary elections in Pennsylvania, allowing registered voters who selected 'none' or 'no affiliation' on their voter registration form to exercise their voting rights during a primary election.

"The aim of my amendment is to dismantle the state's closed primary system and to provide an inclusive platform for unaffiliated voters, otherwise known as independents, the full voice they deserve in the electoral process," Boscola added. "It would send a message to this growing segment of our population, especially young voters. We see you, and we want your voice to be heard in our government."

Boscola's motion to amend Senate Bill 250 failed on a party line vote with Democratic Senators voting in favor and Republican Senators voting against.

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# Game Commission Delivers Annual Report For Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Game Commission Executive Director Bryan Burhans today testified before the House Game and Fisheries Committee and presented the agency's annual report. To view a copy of the agency's annual legislative report please visit [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov) and click on the link under "About Us" on the homepage.

Burhans' testimony before the House Game and Fisheries Committee follows:

"Good morning Chairman Kulik, Chairman Maloney, and members of the House Game and Fisheries Committee. I am pleased to share with you what the Pennsylvania Game Commission has accomplished over the past year.

Our mission requires managing the Commonwealth's 480 wildlife species, across 46,000 square miles, and for more than 13 million people, both hunters and nonhunters. That's a huge challenge. But it's one that we embrace, as evident from the accomplishments by our employees, volunteers, and board members.

I would like to talk first about our efforts in protecting wildlife through the work done by our State Game Wardens.

During fiscal year 2022-23, game wardens issued 5,567 warnings and initiated 6,911 prosecutions. The success rate for those prosecutions was 98.2%, demonstrating the professionalism, training, and judgment used by wardens when bringing charges.

Last month, 12 new wardens graduated from the Ross Leffler School of Conservation and were assigned to districts across the state, bringing our complement to 204 full-time wardens. Fourteen of those wardens are members of our Woodland Tracking Team and are specially trained in conducting search-and-rescue operations in remote locations and across difficult terrains. The Tracking Team was deployed 22 times last year and assisted the State Police in searching for the convicted murder who escaped from the Chester County Prison last summer.

For wildlife management, it seems appropriate to start with white-tailed deer, as no other species generates as much interest and passion. Given the significance of deer to our hunters, and the potential for deer to impact forests and agricultural industries, we take seriously the im-

portance of maintaining a science-based program that uses the best available data. That's why we invest so many resources in studying our deer harvest, which recently has averaged around 400,000 deer between the various seasons. Last year, 31 teams of Game Commission staff visited more than 400 processors and examined more than 23,000 harvested deer. This work allows us to monitor the age and sex of harvested deer to understand their population structure and inform our deer management decisions.

When it comes to bucks, in particular, more than 60% of those taken are 2 1/2 years old or older, thanks mainly to antler point restrictions, which a recent survey showed are supported by over 70% of our hunters.

There are many challenges that our deer population faces though, especially given the spread of chronic wasting disease, or CWD, which continues to show up in more harvested deer each year. Together with researchers from the Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Penn State, and the Wildlife Futures Program at Penn Vet, we're conduc-

ting research in Bedford and Fulton counties, to explore how CWD impacts deer movement, behavior, survival, and causes of mortality.

But deer are only one of the species that we manage.

Last year we wrapped up a three-year study of adult female bears in the Sprout State Forest looking at habitat use and survival rates. The results will be incorporated into future season recommendations. Launching this year is an even bigger research project that will take place over the next five years. It involves putting GPS collars on 200 male and female bears to learn more about their survival in relation to things like habitat and human presence.

Likewise, we're conducting research on wild turkey populations. Working again with Penn State and Penn Vet, we're putting GPS transmitters on turkeys in different landscape types and following them to monitor their survival in the face of varying habitats, weather conditions, disease, predation, and more. Our counterparts in Maryland, Ohio and New Jersey recently joined the study as well, which will give us a regional perspec-

tive on turkey populations.

We are also continuing our efforts to combat white-nose syndrome in bat populations. Lately, we have documented some significant achievements and potential breakthroughs. We found that reducing the temperature a few degrees within hibernating sites can reduce the growth of the pathogen which causes the disease. Based on this finding, we piloted a treatment program at a site that resulted in a two-thirds reduction in disease prevalence. Last spring, we tracked female bats in migration and found over a dozen new colonies that led to over 1,000 reproductive adult females now being monitored and protected.

We're also studying the genetic diversity of grouse to learn more about how fragmented habitat impacts their survival rates.

And we're banding songbirds at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area as part of a continent-wide effort to identify threats to the survival of various species.

These are just a few of our ongoing projects studying the health and viability of Pennsylvania's wildlife.

We're also working hard to create and preserve the habitat that wildlife needs

to survive.

Prescribed fire was used on almost 9,000 acres last fiscal year. Timber harvests improved habitat on nearly 25,000 additional acres. Some of those timber harvests involved a contractor paying us for the lumber. But for others, we removed the trees solely for the purpose of improving the habitat for wildlife. We added more than 3,500 acres to the State Game Lands system, and made infrastructure improvements on existing game lands, creating, and improving 55 miles of roadways, and constructing 28 bridges.

We expanded the number of public shooting ranges that are available. We built six new ranges in the last two fiscal years and added two archery ranges last year, with another coming online soon and five more in the works. Multiple existing shooting ranges are scheduled for upgrades as well.

We certified more than 29,000 new hunters through a combination of online and in-person Hunter-Trapper Education classes; over 50 of the classes being held in public schools, thanks to the legislation authored by Chairman Maloney, which

*Continued on page 13*

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**PLEASE ATTEND MEETING IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR TOWN TO GO INDUSTRIAL**

**Warehouse, Light Pollution, Local Resource Water Aquifer Depletion Set For Frelinghuysen Township, Rt. 94**

### PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

That One Faith Wellness LLC has made an application to the Frelinghuysen Township Land Use Board for the property known as Block 201, Lot 31.01 located at 720 Route 94, Warren County, NJ. The property is situated in the Township's "ROM" Zone District. The Applicant is seeking preliminary and final site plan approvals and bulk variance relief to allow for the development of the property for a cannabis cultivation facility which is a conditionally permitted use in the ROM Zone. Bulk variance relief is required because the Applicant does not meet the ROM Zone district's minimum setback requirement between buildings whereas 50 feet is required and only 1.50 feet is proposed between the enclosed greenhouses. The Applicant further requests such variances, waivers, permits, approvals or licenses that are deemed necessary or appropriate upon review by the Applicant or the Board.

This application is listed on the calendar before the Frelinghuysen Land Use Board and an in-person public hearing has been set for April 1, 2024, at the Municipal Building, 210 Main Street, Johnsonburg, New Jersey at 7:00 P.M. When the case is called, you may appear either in person or by attorney to present any evidence or make any comments, which you may have regarding the application. The matter will be heard on the above date or any adjourned date designed by the Land Use Board at this public meeting without additional notice.

The maps, plans, plats and applications for which approval is being sought are on file with the Land Use Board Secretary and are available for inspection at the Municipal Building during normal business hours.

This notice is provided pursuant to the rules of procedure of the Frelinghuysen Land Use Board and state law. If you need further assistance, the Township's Land Use Board Secretary, Dawn McPeck, may be contacted at (908) 852-4121 or via email at [landuse@frelinghuysen-nj.us](mailto:landuse@frelinghuysen-nj.us).

LAVERY, SELVAGGI & COHEN, PC  
Attorneys for the Applicant,  
One Faith Wellness LLC

*The proposed project will put back to back large buildings in plain sight on Route 94 by Wilbur's Country Store and Yellow Frame Church. They will be a huge draw on our water supply, but yet build and asphalt right above the watershed runoff for the Paulenskill. Fertilizers and other toxins used will be rinsed right into the spotted salamander creek and will be rinsed right into our drinking water source. The lighting will need to be 24/7 and will put a huge draw on the electric supply. Plus, say goodbye to dark starry sky nights. Trucking will complicate route 94 and Frelinghuysen school traffic.*

**Come Voice Your Concerns At The Meeting On April 1, 2024, 7pm  
Located At The Municipal Building, 210 Main Street, Johnsonburg, New Jersey**



# Game Commission Delivers Annual Report For Pennsylvania CONTINUED



mandates that school districts shall make their facilities available for hunter-education classes.

We didn't stop there either. It can take time and resources to create a hunter, so we offered "Learn to Hunt" programs on pheasant, squirrel, spring turkey, archery deer and firearms deer hunting to help recruit hunters. These programs initially consist of a live webinar, and the videos are then made available on our YouTube page where they have reached thousands of new and potential hunters.

We've also made a point of going into communities where hunting is not as prevalent as other parts of the state. The 12-county Southeast Region, for example, is home to more than half of Pennsylvania's

total population. But for those who live there, it's not always easy to find a place to hunt or a mentor to teach you how to be successful. In conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, we offered mentored hunts in Philadelphia at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge and Benjamin Rush State Park, as part of our efforts to introduce hunting to new participants and new communities. In so doing, we are also demonstrating to public landowners that it is possible to use hunting as the mechanism for managing deer populations, even in heavily populated areas.

We set records with

Pennsylvania's National Archery in the Schools Program, which saw over 300 schools and more than 100,000 students participating. In addition to serving as the training ground for the next generation of hunters and recreational shooters, this program helps students develop focus, discipline, and patience – skills needed to be successful at both the range and in the classroom.

And speaking of the National Archery in the Schools Program, we will be holding this year's state tournament on Friday, March 22, in Lancaster County. There is a flier in the packet you received today that has the details on this event. We would love for you to attend if your schedule permits. There will be over 1,000 students from across the state competing for individual and team awards on that day.

But hunters and trappers are not our only constituency. We manage all wildlife for all Pennsylvanians and strive to provide them with ways to connect with wildlife and the work done by our employees.

We released podcasts and videos, and expan-

ded our presence on Facebook, Instagram, and X. And we talked face-to-face with Pennsylvanians at events like the Farm Show and Great American Outdoor Show.

Nearly 2 million viewers enjoyed our livestreams showcasing a bear den, elk, snow geese, and bald eagles' nests. Through our Junior Game Warden Camps, we introduced hundreds of young Pennsylvanians to what it takes to be a State Game Warden, while internship opportunities gave older students real-world experience in everything from wildlife and habitat management to biology and education.

We offered driving tours on multiple game lands, giving people the chance to see some of our properties and interact with staff.

Each month we distributed copies of Pennsylvania Game News to

approximately 4,000 libraries and 70,000 individuals, including anyone who took a Hunter-Trap-Per Education class in the past year.

We participated in the statewide Envirothon and held a National Hunting and Fishing Day event in conjunction with Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area's 50th anniversary.

All told, there is a lot to be proud of when it comes to Pennsylvania's wildlife and hunting heritage. We remain second in the country for hunting licenses sold, behind only Texas. A recent study analyzing hunting license sales found that the nationwide trend is for sales to decrease by over 3% per year. But Pennsylvania is an outlier, with sales remaining steady over the last five years. We consistently rank in the top five states nationally

for a variety of deer hunting categories, including antlered buck and antlerless deer harvest. We are recognized as a top turkey hunting state, with more hunters and more birds than just about anywhere. We have abundant small game hunting opportunities, thanks in part to the over 225,000 pheasants we raise and stock across the state. We continue to produce some of the heaviest black bears and some of the biggest elk. And we monitor, research, manage, and create habitat for all species in between, from barn owls to woodrats.

That concludes my prepared remarks. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the work performed by the dedicated individuals who make up the Game Commission. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have."

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## Garden Dilemmas? Ask Mary!



**Mary E. Stone**  
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Hello, fellow readers,  
Early Spring is ideal for transplanting many woody plants before they break dormancy. It's the second-best time in my book. The first best time is after the leaves drop or when they go dormant. That way, the roots, which remain active all winter long, will have time to settle in before they put energy into new growth. However, plants with thick and fleshy roots, such as Oak, Birch, Hemlock, Magnolia, Tulip Poplar, Rhododendron, and Flowering Dogwood, are better transplanted in the Spring.  
While walking Miss Ellie past a farm that changed hands a handful of years ago, I noti-

ced large cherry trees in the field with root balls loosely wrapped in burlap. The trees were about six inches in caliper. I'll admit seeing them lying there for a few days tugged at my heart, but at least they had the burlap for protection. And based on their intended placement, the new farm owners were thoughtful about where to plant the trees.

As with any new planting, please choose a location that fits its cultural requirements, such as sun versus shade, soil pH, moisture level, and wind tolerance. The cherry trees will shade the animals, and the sunny spot will be a happy home for the transplants. Although, it would have been better if they dug the holes before excavating the trees so they could put them immediately into the ground. Like humans, moving is less stressful if the new home is ready for us and there isn't a dramatic adjustment to an uncomfortable new environment.

When planting plants from a nursery, dig a hole two to three times the width of the root ball and the height of the root ball. Be sure the soil is moist but not overly wet, as it will cause soil



compaction, inhibiting airflow to the roots. The same is true when relocating plants.

A rule of thumb for trees and shrubs you wish to transplant is to dig a root ball eight to twelve inches from the trunk for each inch of the caliper, the trunk's diameter at chest height. The ball should be four to six feet for the farmers' six-inch caliper trees, requiring a machine. For ambitious hand

diggers, stick with transplants no more than two or three inches in caliper and recruit some strong helpers.

Before you lift your newly dug tree, rock it to one side, tuck burlap under the ball, and tip to the other side to create a wrap, tying the top loosely with the twine. Carefully lower the tree into the new hole, straighten it, and carefully put the soil back, tamping it but not overly



compacting it.

Cut away the burlap and twine at about two-thirds to the top, then finish backfilling. Fertilizing is a no-no as it adds stress to the already stressed transplant. But topping the disturbed soil with three inches of hardwood mulch, keeping it away from the trunk or stems will help retain moisture. Proper moisture levels for the first two years of a transplant are critical.

While early transplants will have a double duty—recovery and new growth—their resilient nature will prevail if we do our part, treating them with kindness and respect, much like people.

There have been changes on that farm in the last five years. One of the transplanted cherry trees survived. They

built a building next to where the cows are to sell their goods. But the cows are in what looks like an acre of land, and their field is dirt much of the year with mud and puddling water after rain. It's sad to see. Jolee, my dear rescue dog after Ellie joined the angels, doesn't like to walk that way, nor do I. Though recently, it looks like they are trying to solve the drainage problem, and hopefully, they'll expand their grazing area too.

Jolee and I walk along another street where farmers raise cows free to roam in large fields that they rotate. One field has two elderly cows living out their years. It warms my heart.

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 The Fountain House, LLC  
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14' Smokercraft "Big Fisherman" 15HP/ "All" Accessories Included \$4,000 484-894-4434



# Classified Ad Order Form

Non-commercial classified ads (Misc., Vehicles, Recreation, Wanted, Pets, Yard Sales) are \$5 per week, per inch (1.8" W x 1" H). There is no charge for Free items. Services, Rentals, Real Estate, Homes For Sale and Help Wanted ads are \$15 per week, per inch. Please specify the category in which your ad should appear, the size your ad should be (boxes on right), and how many weeks your ad will run. Please PRINT ad information.

Ads with Photos! \$18

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CATEGORY: \_\_\_\_\_

One inch (actual size shown here)

WEEKS RUNNING: \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT PAID: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please PRINT Your Ad Information Below  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Two inches (actual size shown here)

CLASSIFIEDS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN NOON ON FRIDAY IN ORDER TO BE PRINTED IN THE UPCOMING EDITION.  
 All classified ads must be paid in full, in advance. Credit cards are NOT accepted for charges less than \$25 Classifieds may be submitted by mail PO BOX 606, Bangor, PA 18013  
 email: thepressads@gmail.com or fax: 610-599-1185. Classifieds are NOT accepted by phone  
 Help Wanted ads are free for current advertisers.  
 Make Checks Payable to: The Free Weekly Press, LLC

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- Heinshon Honey - 1lb, 2lb, 5lb Jars
- Hop A Long Farms Grass Fed Beef
- We Also Carry Chicken, Turkey & Pork
- Watergap Coffee - All The Specialty Flavors  
Whole Bean • Decaf • Regular Ground

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Stop By For Your  
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**STOP IN FOR FRESH BAKED GOODS**

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